

## U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building  
One Saint Andrew's Plaza  
New York, New York 10007

January 25, 2008

BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable Jed S. Rakoff  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007

USDC SDNY  
DOCUMENT  
ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
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Re: United States v. Ballard and Steel,  
08 Cr. 62 (JSR)


Dear Judge Rakoff:

This matter was assigned to Your Honor on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. An initial pretrial conference has been scheduled before Your Honor for Friday, February 8, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. Enclosed also please find a copy of the Indictment and the Complaint for Your Honor's files. Further, the Government respectfully requests that the Court exclude time from today until February 8, 2008, pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(h)(8)(A). The ends of justice served by such continuance outweigh the interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial because the continuance will allow the Government to produce discovery to the defendants and to begin discussions regarding a possible disposition of this case. Counsel for the defendants consent to this request for the exclusion of time.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA  
United States Attorney

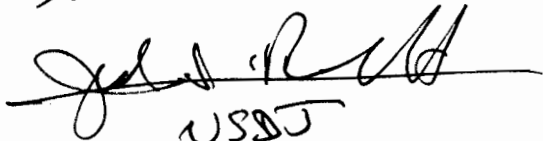
By:

  
Benjamin A. Naftalis  
Assistant United States Attorney  
(212) 637-2456

Encls.

cc: Defense counsel (w/o encls.)

SO ORDERED

  
USDC

1-28-08